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No. 26

THE BAPTIST

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Mississippian Rankin honored at IMB

RICHMOND, Va. (BP and local reports) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) recognized Mississippian Jerry Rankin for 10 years of service as president of the worldwide missionary sending arm of the Southern Baptist Convention, during their regular July meeting in Richmond, Va.

Since Rankin's election as president in 1993, IMB workers have seen church starts increase each year from about 2,000 in 1992 to more than 8,300 in 2002 and baptisms grow from almost 252,000 to more than 421,000. Support from the churches increased 32% through the Cooperative Program and 43% through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International

and the controversial requirement that all IMB missionaries affirm the 2000 version of the Baptist Faith and Message. A few missionaries chose to leave IMB rather than sign what they considered a creed.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Increases in missions support from churches are still critical to ease restrictions on sending new missionaries, but the stock market's improved performance in the first six months of 2003 has helped some with the IMB's financial crunch, the board's vice president for finance told the trustees.

Stock returns probably will provide the \$23 million of investment income budgeted for 2003, David Stevenson said. Combined with the \$10 million cut from the budget in June, the board now is watching church gifts through Southern Baptists' unified budget plan, the Cooperative Program, and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to see whether additional spending reductions still may be needed.

The IMB had to make serious budget adjustments in June because growing support from Southern Baptist churches was not keeping pace with the record numbers of new missionaries coming forward for service. The board limited the number of new workers that will be sent overseas in 2003 and 2004 and eliminated 61 fulltime and part-time state-side staff positions after the 2002 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering fell almost \$10 million short of its \$125 million goal.

The IMB's missionary count grew 8.7% from 2000 to 2002, but combined income from the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering increased 1.5% during the same period. Approximately 100 candidates who hoped to begin long-term missionary careers this year have been deferred to next year or put on hold. The number of new short-term personnel also will be reduced by 30 percent this year.

God can use the financial challenge facing Southern Baptist missions efforts to teach churches and the IMB to totally depend upon God, Stevenson said.

"Hudson Taylor said: 'God takes a man and crushes him. He makes him small enough and insignificant enough, and then He uses him,'" Stevenson said. "Let's listen for what God is teaching us in these days and totally depend on Him. Our desire is to be used by Him to His glory."

NEW MISSIONARIES

In a service at London Bridge Church in Virginia Beach that coincided with the trustee meeting, 70 new missionaries were appointed representing the vocational, ethnic, and geographic diversity that increasingly characterizes the Southern Baptist missionary force.

Among the newly-appointed missionaries with Mississippi connections were:

- James Thayer and Deborah Kay Stoker Merrill, who will serve in the Middle Americas. He was born in Jackson and holds degrees from William Carey College (WCC) in Hattiesburg, Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas, and New Orleans Seminary. She was born in Jackson and holds degrees from WCC, Texas Wesleyan University in Ft. Worth, Texas, Florida International University in Miami, Fla., and Palm Beach Atlantic College in West Palm Beach, Fla. They have three adult children.

- John Luther and Sarah Grant Perkins. He is the former association missions director for Northwest Association in Hernando, and holds degrees from Pensacola Junior College in Pensacola, Fla., Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton, Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and the Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans. She was born in McComb and holds degrees from MC, Southern Seminary, The University of Memphis, and the University of Mississippi in Oxford. They have three adult children.

- Steven Mark and Laura Thomae Young, who will serve in the middle Americas. He was born in Jackson and holds degrees from Hinds Community College in Raymond, the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) in Hattiesburg, and Mid-America Seminary in Germantown, Tenn. She was born in Natchez and holds degrees from USM, Phillips Business College in Jackson, and Tech de Monterey in Queretari, Mexico. They have four children.

The new workers talked briefly about how God called them to overseas service, explaining how He showed them He can use even the most ordinary church member, how He helped them understand His heartbreak over the world's lost multitudes and how He filled their hearts with a passion for taking the good news of God's love to those who have yet to hear.



DECADE OF SERVICE — International Mission Board (IMB) staff members recognized Mississippians Jerry Rankin (right) and his wife Bobbye (left) in July for his 10 years of service as IMB president. The Rankins were presented with a framed version of the board's That all peoples may know Him logo on a background of names of unreached people groups engaged with the Gospel for the first time during Rankin's tenure. (BP photo by Roy M. Burroughs)

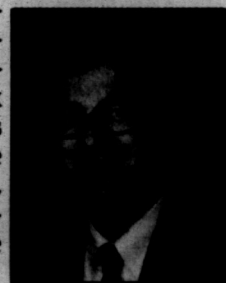
Missions during the same period. The number of people groups being reached with the Gospel grew from 584 to 1,497 in just the past five years.

Both Jerry and Bobbye Rankin graduated from Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, where they are members of the school's Hall of Fame.

The reason Southern Baptists have witnessed such progress during the past 10 years, Rankin said, is simply that God has chosen to break down barriers, soften people's hearts, and fill missionaries with His passion for a lost world. Rankin credited the importance of prayer as the basic missions strategy, praised the quality of the board's staff, missionaries and trustees, and expressed his gratitude for the steadfast support of his wife Bobbye, also a Mississippian.

"No one is more amazed than I at how God has worked in these 10 years through the IMB," Rankin said. "It is not about us, but about God's glory. He will not share His glory, and as long as we humbly walk in submission to His Lordship, resist taking credit and acclaim and are driven only by a desire for Christ to be exalted among all peoples, I believe God's blessings will be assured."

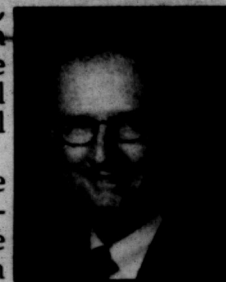
The past year has been bumpy for Rankin and IMB, with painful cutbacks and layoffs attributed to budget shortfalls,



J. Merrill



D. Merrill



J. Perkins



S. Perkins

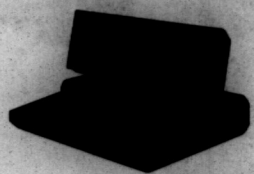


S. Young



L. Young

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The centrality of Jesus Christ

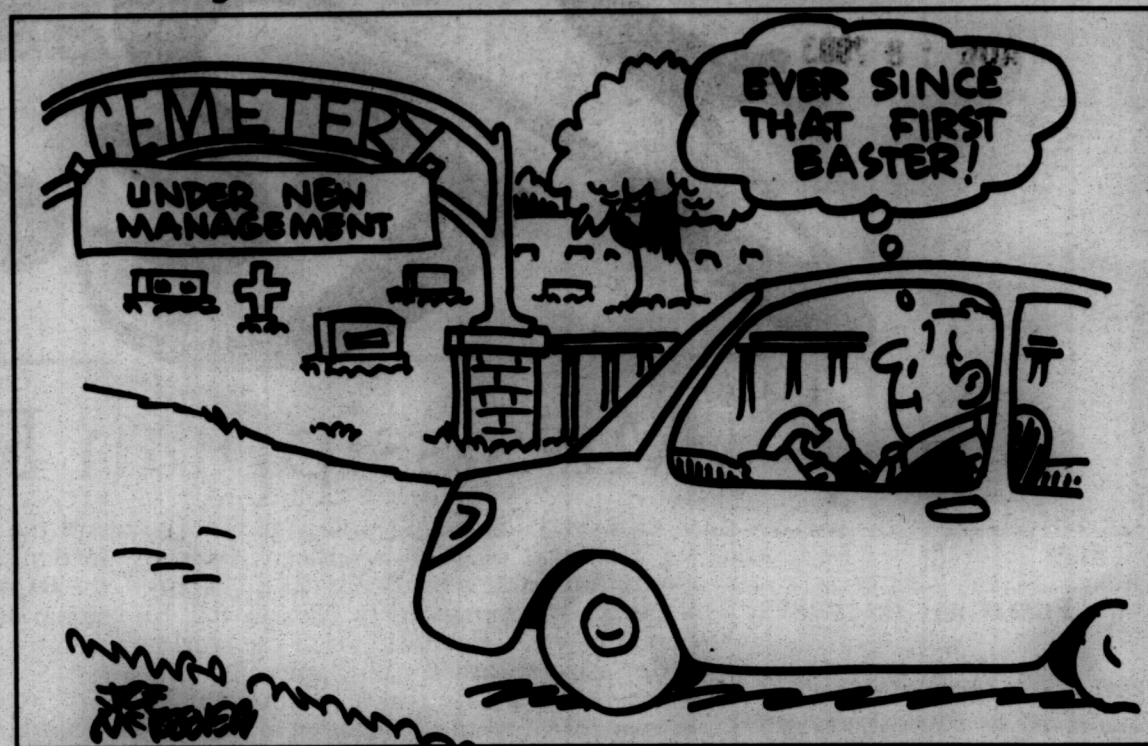
As The Baptist Record went to press on August 5, the Episcopal Church was on the verge of endorsing its first openly-homosexual bishop, V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire. Only last minute questions about a pornographic link on his pro-homosexual web site for young people, and an alleged incident of inappropriate contact with a man, have stalled his approval at the church's annual gathering this week in Minneapolis.

By the time The Baptist Record lands in mailboxes, the specific issue of Robinson's elevation to bishop will like have been settled one way or the other — but the rapidly advancing issue of homosexuality and the Christian church will continue to stir controversy. The Episcopal Church gambit is instructive of what we can expect in the near future from the homosexual movement in this country as it takes aim at Christian organizations.

Some people may think making such a statement betrays paranoia and "homophobia" (a made-up word), but look at the facts in only one case: that of V. Gene Robinson. Robinson walked away from his marriage and his two young daughters and began an open homosexual relationship with another man that has lasted 13 years.

Notwithstanding his personal moral failures and flagrant public disregard for scriptural prohibitions against practicing homosexuality, Robinson was accepted into the Episcopal ministry. He moved up the state Episcopal group's organizational chart in New Hampshire until he was chosen to become bishop. He has passed two required votes in the national Episcopal body and appeared ready to pass the third and final vote when the allegations surfaced.

Although Robinson's campaign for the bishopric threatens to tear apart the Episcopal Church in this country and the worldwide Anglican Communion of which



the American church is a member, he and his supporters seem intent on persevering until he is approved. American church members, as well as Anglican bishops from parts of the world where Islam competes aggressively with Christianity, have threatened to leave the Communion if Robinson gets his way. Yet, he continues onward.

Southern Baptists have made it clear that as a body of believers we consider homosexuality a sin. We have also made it clear that homosexuals are in just as much need of salvation through Jesus Christ as we all were in our own prior states of sinful living, and that we are willing to lead them to Christ.

A Southern Baptist task force on ministry to homosexuals reinforced that conclusion in June of this year. "We are not at liberty to renegotiate the teaching of Scripture. We have a proclamation responsibility which has to do with... stating very plainly what the Scriptures teach about this or some

other lifestyle choice that is declared to be sinful. We also have a responsibility of doing productive, effective, and redemptive ministry to people of all classes," said Bill Merrell, a member of the task force and vice president for convention relations with the SBC's Executive Committee in Nashville, in a June 16 Baptist Press report.

Amen to that. As Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville and a member of the task force, put it in the Baptist Press article, "What we are calling Southern Baptists to do is to practice lifestyle-blind evangelism in the same way we have called upon our denomination to practice color-blind and ethnic-blind evangelism."

"That does not mean we accept their lifestyle. It means we accept them as people for whom Jesus died."

That's the message a lost world is waiting to hear, so let's get busy and tell them.

But wanting their ears tickled, they will not endure sound doctrine..

The Apostle Paul wrote this warning to Timothy (2 Timothy 4:3) to guard against false teaching, but the exhortation/warning is applicable to the recent sensationalism surrounding archaeological discoveries that support the Bible.

This past year has witnessed the publication of two dramatic inscriptions supporting the New Testament and Old Testament. The first was the James ossuary, the purported bone box that held the remains of James, the brother of Jesus and bishop of the church of Jerusalem. The second is the Joash inscription purporting to recount renovations and repairs to the temple as recorded in Kings.

The public and press were quick to tout these as proof of the historicity of the Bible. Recent developments in the saga have placed these objects in a dark light.

The James ossuary initially was subject to scholarly investigation and the results were presented to a conference of biblical scholars and archaeologists in November. The Aramaic inscription was analyzed by one of the top Aramaic scholars.

GUEST OPINION: The real work of archaeology

By Steven M. Ortiz, New Orleans Seminary

After the publication of this inscription, the Joash inscription also was publicized. The Geological Survey of Israel authenticated both inscriptions.

The authenticity of the Joash inscription was immediately questioned in publications in the Israel Exploration Journal. An upcoming article in Archaeology magazine will state that the James ossuary also is a fake.

There have been some recent developments. The owner of the Joash inscription and the James ossuary was arrested by the Israeli police, charged with illegally selling fake artifacts. Police found an elaborate lab used to produce fake artifacts according to reports in the Israel press.

If the James ossuary inscription is proven to be a fake like the Joash inscription, does this cast doubt on the historicity of the Bible? Ironically it seems that some Christians

feel that they need to support the authenticity of these inscriptions because they are defending the Bible. The proliferation of fake artifacts on the market does not say anything about the truthfulness or accuracy of the historical accounts in the Bible. It only proves that there is a willing public to jump on the bandwagon of biblical archaeology.

The Apostle Paul constantly confronted a church that wanted to view signs and wonders instead of a reasoned faith, which was the hallmark of Paul's Gospel message.

There will continue to be archaeological data that support the historicity of the Bible and there will be artifacts that appear on the antiquities market that will be frauds. The popularity of the Indiana Jones movies has conditioned people to see archaeology as glamorous with the discovery of exciting finds.

Biblical archaeologists are uncovering and documenting finds that support the biblical account but it is not done by swinging with ropes while saving heroines or dodging giant rolling balls; it is done by the systematic excavation and research of the archaeological enterprise. Unfortunately, this is too labor-intensive and financially difficult for those who want immediate gratification without the cost.

The good news is that a consortium of Southern Baptist seminaries is joining forces to establish a biblical archaeological research program in the Middle East. The work will be done by solid and reasoned scholarship, not the sensationalism of frauds and fakes.

Ortiz, who has more than 20 years experience serving as a senior staff member of excavations in Israel, is assistant professor of archeology and Bible at New Orleans Seminary and director of the Archaeological Research Program. To contact Ortiz concerning research and study opportunities, or to obtain more information about the Archaeological Research Program, call (800) 662-8701, ext. 3249, or send e-mail to sortiz@nobts.edu. This column appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

Acteens flood Nashville for special meeting



READY TO GO — Mississippi Acteens and their chaperones prepare to board their buses for the trip to Nashville for the National Acteens Convention (NAC), held July 29-August 1 in the Nashville Convention Center. Approximately 470 Mississippians attended the international meeting, which is held about every five years. (BR photo)

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — White posts and neatly grouped chairs mark each state's territory across the sprawling floor of the Nashville Convention Center. At first glance it looks like a political convention, but there are no Democrats or Republicans dressed in stodgy dark power suits — only teenaged girls, and lots of them, dressed in brightly colored t-shirts waving their hands above their heads and jumping up and down in time with the lively music.

A bird's eye view of the audience looks more like a spilled bag of M&M's hyped-up on caffeine clustered all the way around the stage located smack in the middle.

Welcome to the July 29 opening night of NAC, the National Acteens Convention sponsored by the national Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). Nearly 6,500 teenaged girls representing almost all 50 states and 19 countries gath-

ered July 29-August 1 to gain a broader perspective of God's activity in the world. Along the way, many were certain to feel God drawing them into fulltime mission work or simply gain a realization that wherever their lives lead they are ambassadors for Christ.

"This opportunity helps them develop as leaders whether they go around the world or across the street," said Julie Walters, communications specialist for WMU. "NAC is designed to be a time of spiritual development for the girls. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that we believe will positively influence them to be on mission with God on a daily basis as they seek God's plan for their lives."

SyncroNations 2003, the theme for the three-day convention which is held approximately every five years, is the eighth such convention since WMU launched Acteens in 1970.

Acteens is a missions organization for girls in grades 7-12.

NAC is filled with missions education and practical ministry opportunities. The entire contingent walked five blocks from the convention center to the Tennessee state capital building for a prayer rally. The group also divided and worked in 68 elementary, middle, and high schools in the Nashville area unpacking text books, painting, cleaning campus grounds, and helping schools prepare for the first day of classes.

"In addition to NAC being an opportunity for spiritual development it gives the girls the experience of hands on ministry," said Wanda S. Lee, WMU executive director/treasurer. "We believe the two combined teaches a missionary lifestyle that we pray continues for the rest of their lives."

Missions education during SyncroNations 2003 set aside lectures and canned presentations in favor of interactive walks through Global Village. Displays were virtual encounters with multi-cultural mission fields. Cameras were strongly encouraged so that participants can "see themselves on mission."

Cultures featured were from Latin America, Africa, Middle East, Europe, Asia, and North America. Missionaries from both the International Mission Board and the North American

Record

Mission Board were present and acted as tour guides through Global Village.

"Our desire for Global Village is that this will pique the girls' interest in missions as they learn more about opportunities to share Christ's love with others around the world," Walters said. "We also want them to experience the flavor of the cultures of the world so that they will know better how to pray for the people who live there."

There were five general sessions scheduled where the teens worshipped and learned together. The opening session featured missionaries and Acteens from Latin America. Local Nashville recording artist Celia Whittler performed and each state and country represented was introduced. The girls were also challenged.

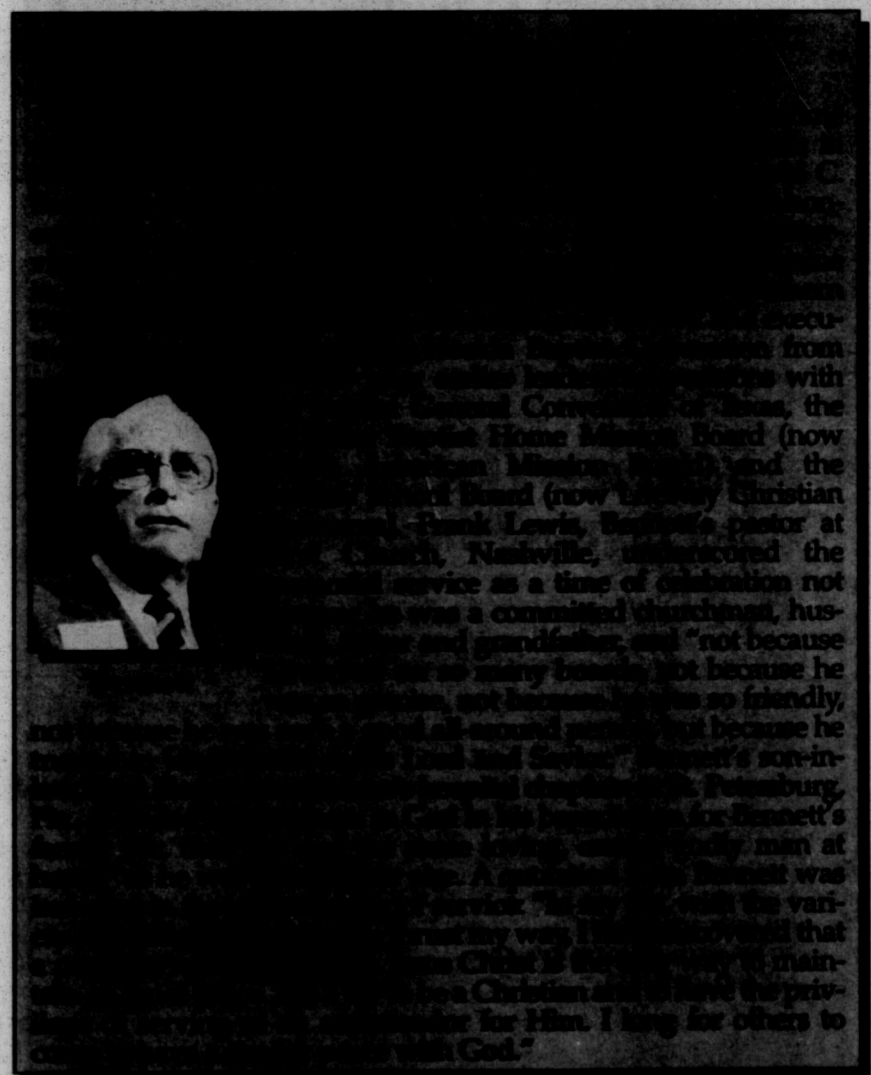
"Unpack everything on your mind and put it away," said Kym Mitchell, WMU staff member and design editor of the new Acteens curriculum, The Mag. "Allow God to speak to you. He brought you here for a purpose. Spend this time this week focused on Him."

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Looking back

10 years ago

W. Lewis Nobles resigns as president of Mississippi College (MC) amid a board of trustee-initiated inquiry into the handling of donations to the college. Longtime MC administrator Rory Lee will serve as acting president until the board of trustees selects a successor.

20 years ago

The Baptist Children's Village, a ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, celebrates 86 years of continuous care. The first group of children to actually enter the then-Baptist Orphanage's care were admitted on May 12, 1897.

50 years ago

Americans spent almost twice as much on television sets in 1952 as they do in supporting their churches, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce. While Americans gave approximately \$1,296,000,000 to churches, they spent \$2,234,000,000 on their TV sets.

Correction

On page five of the July 31 issue, the fourth paragraph of the article on the New Orleans Seminary music classes should have read: "The cost of each course is \$90. A \$50 scholarship is available for all first-time students. Students already enrolled are not eligible. The grant is limited to one person per church." The Baptist Record regrets the typesetting error.

GOSSIP

Unless you are deaf, I am confident that you can't go through a day without hearing some of it — GOSSIP! It is everywhere. News channels seem to thrive on it 24 hours a day, but that is no less than most of us do. At work, at home, on the internet, or on the telephone, it seems that we receive it, spread it, enjoy it, and wonder about it repeatedly.

Although baseball, football, NASCAR, and wrestling want to pretend to be America's sport, we probably spend more time at the game of "Gossip" than any other sport. While I suppose every sport has risks in it, this one is fun for most folks. However, it can prove to be deadly. Gossip is the spread of information beyond the boundaries of where it should go. It can be true or false, implied or inaccurate, or absolute truth that just simply leaves out certain facts.

Gossip is usually at its best when we are telling something that is not known by others. It is somewhat juicy, inside information, and reveals that we are people of insight with a clear track on the inside of what is happening. Gossip is almost always laced with information that could be harmful. I do not know of any segment or sector of society that is not harmed by the problem of gossip — church, family, government, sports, and business. We don't always call it gossip. In Washington they call it "leaks." In church, we sometimes call it "concerns or prayer requests." In business it is sometimes seen as a "competitive edge." In almost every case, it is nothing more

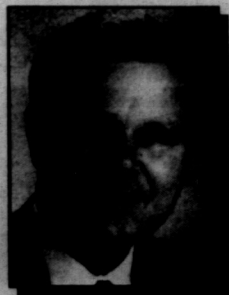
than home-grown gossip!

It is probably not necessary to point out to most of us that the Bible is filled with verses that warn against gossip — both gossiping and gossipers. Still, it seems to thrive in our culture, seemingly as never before. In a world of high-tech communication, there are so many people walking around with a cell phone in hand and speed dial ready to go. They can be virtually anywhere on the globe, hear a piece of juicy information, and immediately connect with somebody a million miles away to let them know what is happening, or at least what they think is happening.

Add to that the incredible, high-speed travel of e-mail whereby you can type on a screen a brief message, hit a button for your address book, and send it off to umpteen friends at one touch. Immediately everybody will have in hand the information, or misinformation, or as many of you can attest to worthless information.

What can be done about this situation? Let me quickly suggest to you three helps in dealing with gossip.

- First, let's look at Gossip Coppers. It would help each of us if we would station a guard at the gate of our mouths. Scriptures say that we are to guard our speech! Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could employ a security guard for what we say? We can, if we can put a right thought process in our minds and a noose around our tongues. That would certainly



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

slow down some of our own gossip that we send out.

One cop is that everybody you tell will tell somebody. I don't care how you shape it; everybody you tell is going to tell somebody. If you ask them not to tell anybody — they'll tell somebody. Have you ever talked to somebody "in confidence" and asked them to keep it "in confidence" and they agree? They mean it; but, often I am afraid that what they mean is that they will receive the information "in confidence" and promise that they will only pass it on to others "in confidence." That, my friends, is not "in confidence."

In thinking about this cop, we need to remember Benjamin Franklin's statement from Poor Richard. He said we ought to remember that "he who gossips to you, will gossip about you." It's a stinging thought isn't it?

Another cop that I would give you that might help us to keep gossip under control is to remember that if you don't want it told, don't tell it!

One other cop I would like to give you to help guard your speech is to focus on "keeping your mouth shut." Now, the reason that I state it that way is because the mouth does not have to be focused "to open" — it will open automatically. It takes a concentrated effort to keep it shut and I am convinced that only God can give us the kind

of strength and control to do that.

- A second area that I would throw out to you for a thought about gossip is related to Gossip

Stoppers. If someone is constantly coming to you giving and feeding you gossip, what do you do to bring it to a halt? How do you stop it? Three quick suggestions that I would pass along are:

1. Search for the source. Ask, "Where did you get that information?" "Who actually said that?" "What was the context?" "Was anybody else there?" Reaching for the source of the information often changes the look of the information.

2. A second thing you can do is ask, "Can I quote you on that?" "Mercy no! No, you can tell that he said it, but not that I said it!" would most likely be their reply; but, they just said it!

3. A third thing that stops gossip is that if you are where you can, and somebody is telling you something about someone else, say, "Let's call him and ask him." That usually is not met with agreement and many times can stop gossip.

- One other thing that I would give you to help control gossip is to give attention

to Gossip Moppers. How do you mop up the mess that gossip leaves behind? It can leave a person devastated, ruin a person's character, destroy a life, affect a relationship, hurt a church, and close a business. For someone who genuinely, sincerely, and spiritually wants to deal with this wild force among us, it is important to learn that gossip is sin. Therefore, it must be dealt with as sin. It must be confessed to God, asking for forgiveness and restoration to a new approach in speech.

I personally have known of people who have murdered others. Many times I have heard them confess asking God to forgive and cleanse them. On the other hand, I have known of many, many more people who have done character assassinations, implied things they knew were either untrue or uncertain, spread poison strong enough to kill a thousand futures, and never once felt the pain of what their wrong speech had inflicted.

Occasionally, I will hear someone say, "I wish I had said something," and they may be correct. They wished they had said something rather than remaining silent. But, when it comes to gossip, I have never known of a time, that if you waited 24 hours and looked back, you would not be grateful for saying, "I'm glad I didn't say anything."

When it comes to gossip, you don't have to clean up, mop up, or fix up what you don't mess up!

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF West Point, Miss. is currently accepting resumes for the position of a full-time Early Childhood Ministry Director, (child care & kindergarten). Please send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 794, West Point, MS 39773, attn: cc chairman, Sherman Berry or call (662) 494-4213.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC and part-

time minister of youth needed at Lexie Baptist Church in Tylertown, Miss. Would prefer these positions into one position. Send resumes to personnel committee, Lexie Baptist Church, 12 West Lexie Road, Tylertown, MS 39667. For more info, call (601) 222-0165.

ADATON BAPTIST CHURCH WILL BE accepting resumes the the full-time position of Administrative Assistant. All

interested individuals may apply by sending a resume to Adaton Baptist Church, attention: personnel committee, 1975 Highway 82 W., Starkville, MS 39759. Resumes will be accepted through August 30, 2003. For additional information, call (662) 323-3735.

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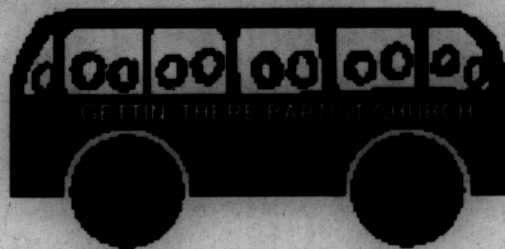
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Pictured from left are Margaret Armstrong, director of Volunteer Services; Beverly Gilbert, auxiliary president; Bobbie Wynn, director of Baptist's Cancer Services; Jay Chavez, president of The TRUST; Jerry Cotton, executive vice president, Baptist Health Systems; Det Terry, auxiliary past president; and Jean Greene, auxiliary liaison to The TRUST.

Volunteers Recognized for Cancer Center Fundraising Efforts

Baptist Health Systems recently held a dedication ceremony in the new Hederman Cancer Center, hosted by The TRUST, the Foundation for Baptist. The ceremony recognized the Baptist auxiliary's generous gift to fund the second floor lobby and the prayer room in the new cancer center. The auxiliary volunteers raised the \$110,000 through the sale of flowers and jewelry.

For more information on becoming a Baptist volunteer, call (601) 968-1210.

Baptist
HEALTH SYSTEMS

The Spirit of Healthcare

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 7, 2003

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

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3 GREAT 2003 LOCATIONS

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August 19
6:30-9:15 p.m.

CAMP GARAYWA
August 22-23
3:30 p.m.

FBC, WIGGINS
August 26
6:30-9:15 p.m.

CLT Garaywa Registration

(Preregistration required for session at Garaywa only)

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Association _____

RATES INCLUDE one night's lodging and meals

Patterson Place Lodge: (no singles)

☐ Double \$48.50 ea.

☐ Triple \$43.50 ea.

☐ Quad \$38.50 ea.

Please list roommates (optional): _____

☐ Please assign roommate(s) for me

Guest House/Auditorium/Cabins 1 & 20:

(inside bath & linens) ☐ \$32.50 ea.

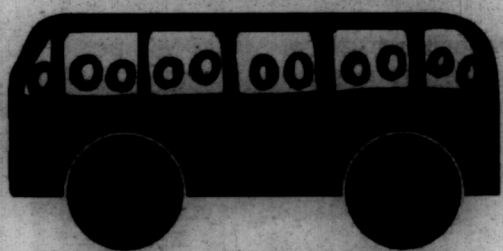
Cabins: (bath house & no linens) ☐ \$26.50 ea.

Commuter Meals:

☐ Fri. Dinner : \$7 ☐ Sat. Bkfst: \$5 ☐ Sat. Lunch: \$6

Please make checks payable to: MBCB & memo CLT

Mail to: Mississippi WMU, CLT, PO Box 530,
Jackson MS 39205-0530



Annual Missions Celebration Bus Tour October 3-4

Departing from Camp
Garaywa at 7 a.m. for the
Annual Missions Celebration
at Harrisburg BC, Tupelo

Registration form available at
www.mbc.org, or call the Mississippi
WMU at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 317
or 601-292-3317

COST*

Single: \$107
Double: \$70
Triple: \$62
Quad: \$54

* Cost includes one night's lodging at the Hampton Inn, continental breakfast & bus transportation. Thursday night accommodations are available in the Camp Garaywa guest house for an additional \$14.

2003

Professional Certification for Ministry Assistants and Ministry Office SkillShops



September 9-11
Camp Garaywa
Clifton

**Glenda
Suggs**
Professional
Certification



**Sarah
Farmer**
Skillshops



The SkillShop topic offered this year is:

APPLYING SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN MINISTRY – Do you know that God loves you so much that He has given you a special gift? Do you know what that gift is? Are you applying that gift to your ministry in the office? Applying Spiritual Gifts in Ministry will help you understand the spiritual gifts, identify your own spiritual giftedness, and discover how you can use your gifts through your office and personal ministry. This study could change your life and perspective on ministry!
NOTE: This is a three-day Skillshop. Two Continuing Education Units will be awarded.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Kay McDonnell, 1-800-748-1651 or 292-3305 or E-mail: kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

You should register by August 29, 2003. There will be a \$5 late fee after August 29.

Mississippi CWJC



National Certification Training for Site Coordinators

October 20-24

The Woods BC
Tyler, Tex.

Cost: \$113

Level 1

New Site Coordinators
(Spanish translation available)

Level 2

Existing Site Coordinators

Questions? Call Sandra Nash at
601-924-9205 or E-mail
snnash@aol.com; or Tammy Anderson,
Miss. WMU, at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 317
or 601-292-3317 or E-mail
tanderson@mbcb.org

Registration form online: www.mbc.org

One
Voice
in Concert

IMB State Missions

GOAL: \$1.5 MILLION

VOLUNTEERS, through short-term mission experiences, sometimes sense a call from God to serve for longer terms on the field. Many missionaries on the field today first sensed God's call through a short-term mission trip.

For Mike and Linda Ray, IMB missionaries to Ukraine, short-term mission volunteers are of vital importance to their ministry. Mission volunteers enable them to do things on the field that they simply cannot do on their own. A team of volunteers who come to lead VBS for children and youth are providing the manpower that Mike and Linda simply don't have. Medical groups who minister through clinics provide skills and resources. These clinics draw large numbers of people who come and hear the gospel in places where new churches are being planted. Volunteers also come and catch a vision of what God is doing on the field. Often these volunteers are

touched by needs they see and return home with a sense of urgency and passion for missions because of the hands-on experience. The Rays, who have answered the missionary call, are grateful for the 158 volunteers who partnered with them and helped them accomplish what they could not do by themselves.

Your Gifts to the Margaret Lackey Offering assisted hundreds of Mississippi Baptist volunteers with scholarships.

For more info, contact Debbie Sills, Mission Strategy, MBCB, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3320.



Senior Adult Retreat IV

Tues., Sept. 30 - Thurs., Oct. 2

Cost: \$97

Featuring sessions by:

John McCall, Clinton
Ken Walters, Picayune
Brian Upshaw, Gulfport
Randy Oswalt, Vicksburg

James Haynes, Biloxi
Gwen Williams, New Orleans
Judy Marby, Biloxi
Glenn Shows, MBCB

Irene Martin, Harpersville
Dot Pray, Jackson
Jerry Mixon, MBCB

Guest Speaker
Bill Baker

Senior Adult Retreat IV Registration

Name of Adult(s) _____
☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Couple
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Church _____ Association _____
 Amount Enclosed: _____

Mail to: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly,
100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571

For more information call 228-452-7261.

Make checks payable to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.
(Visa/MasterCard are accepted.)

Deposit: \$40 per person or \$80 per family

Leadership Development for WMU, Men's Ministry and Community Ministry

STROUDSBURG, PENN.

PINEBROOK BIBLE CONFERENCE & RETREAT CENTER

SEPTEMBER 11-14 (actual event: September 12-13)

Bible Study and Worship Leaders:
Debra Berry & Doug Huesing

Ministerial: IMB & NAMB
And other special guests!

COST*

• Double \$355 • Triple \$343 • Quad \$332

*Includes conference housing & meals,
bus transportation & two nights lodging on the road

Info and registration form online, www.mbc.org,
or call the Mississippi WMU
at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 317 or 601-292-3317

Registrations must be postmarked no later than August 12

State Literacy Missions Workshop

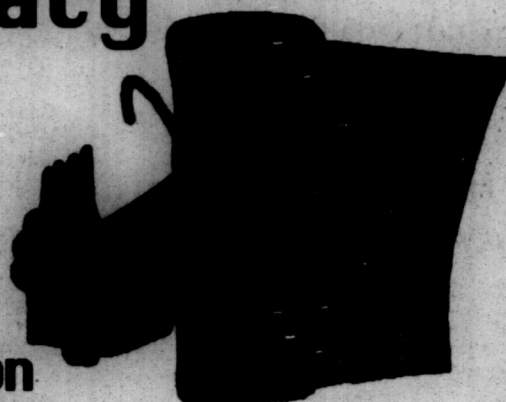
**November 13-15
Camp Garaywa, Clinton**

Choose from:

- English as a Second Language (New)
- English as a Second Language (Experienced)
- Adult Reading and Writing
- Tutoring Children and Youth
- Chronological Bible Storying

Registration Deadline, October 24th

Info and registration
form online,
www.mbc.org,
or call the
Mississippi WMU at
1-800-748-1651, ext. 317
or 601-292-3317



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Watson**

YOUTH
**Rick
Green**

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Ruth Lewis

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Literature Order Form or
LifeWay Christian Stores, ISBN 0-6330-9930-9.

*Come receive the training
and inspiration to begin a new choir
year. Note the class especially for
coordinators and combined
age groups.*

Registration: \$5 per person, pay at the door
No preregistration required
No child care available

★ **Preschool**
★ **Children**
★ **Youth**

Choir Leadership Clinic

August 15-16

Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.

For more info, call MBCB Church Music Department at
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3271

PRESCHOOL
**Nan
Grantham**

YOUNGER
CHILDREN
**Dora Ann
Purdy**

OLDER
CHILDREN
**Karen
Sorrells**

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW CLINIC

I & II TIMOTHY

The Church: Anticipating the Kingdom's Appearing

Sept. 23	Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain BSU, Delta State, Cleveland Gulf Coast Assn. Office, Gulfport	Carl White Dean Register Les Hughes
Sept. 24	BSU, NW MS Comm. College, Senatobia Garaywa, Clinton William Carey College, Hattiesburg	Carl White Dean Register Les Hughes
Sept. 25	Central Hills, Kosciusko Lauderdale Assn. Office, Meridian Pike Assn. Office, McComb	Carl White Les Hughes Dean Register

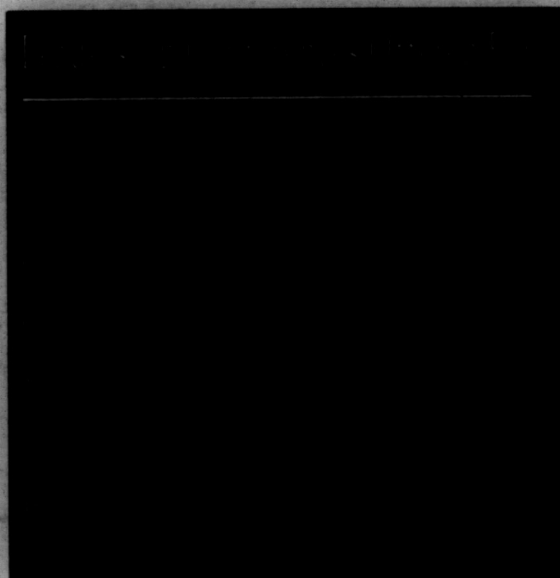
Registration begins at 9 a.m.
Conference 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Lunch will be provided by MBCB

For more info, contact the Sunday School Department at
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3292



"Building a Transformational Sunday School"

A Sunday School training event for all age groups



Specialized Conferences

- **Pastor/Staff Conferences**
- **Discipleship Conferences**

**Give Your
Sunday School
the Strength that
It Needs!**

**Longview Heights
Baptist Church, Olive Branch**
Saturday, August 23
9 a.m.-noon

First Baptist Church, McComb
Saturday, August 23
9 a.m.-noon

**&
Country Woods
Baptist Church, Jackson**
Saturday, September 13
9 a.m.-noon

*Conference leaders include
Mississippi Baptist consultants,
equippers, and special guests.*

NO COST!

Preregistration required

For more info, or to register, contact:
Sunday School Department, MBCB
601-292-3291 or 1-800-748-1651

Pray this day for...

August 8-21, 2003

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Do you want to change the world? Then pray."

George Roller, exec. director

The Center for Christian Statesmanship
Washington, D.C.

For: (1) Language Missions Day (WMU Emphasis); (2) Clean drinking water in Iraq continues to be scarce. Teams are needed to drill water wells and install water purifiers. Pray that many with those skills and a willingness to serve will undertake these projects.

Jim Frago, Farmington, Mo., is a church planter working with Sunrise Baptist Church in the Mineral Area Association. Pray for Jim, Jewellie, and their three children as they work bi-vocationally to plant a new church, and for support from other area churches.

For: (1) Faith Training, Colonial Heights BC, Jackson, 11th-14th (SS & LifeWay); (2) Pray for wisdom and strength for Pastor L. who recently was ordained by Calvary Baptist Church of Singapore and for wisdom as the church disciples and train new Hokkien converts.

Hugh and Debbie Redmon, missionaries to Venezuela, are on stateside assignment to enroll their oldest daughter in college. Pray for her safety and a good adjustment to college life. Pray for the Redmons and their younger son as they return to Venezuela to start a new chapter in their family life without their daughter at home.

Nobody really knows how many Christians there are in China. But, a reliable estimate is 100 million with the church in China growing by 10,000 to 20,000 daily! There are still 1 billion unreached people in China. Pray to the Lord of harvest to send laborers into the fields.

Pray for the Regional Leadership Team of Eastern Africa (Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, southern Sudan, and Uganda). Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide them as they direct the different teams in their area.

E. in Lima, Peru, has accepted Christ. She and her husband are influential members of the Taiwanese community of Lima. Their business has not been doing well and they have talked about moving. Pray that they will remain and become a spiritual influence for other Taiwanese.

During the month of April, a Food Distribution Project was conducted among the Mang'anja people located in southern Malawi. The project affected approximately 37,500. "Preaching points" were started as a result. Please pray that these preaching points will develop into churches.

For: (1) New Staff Day, FBC, Jackson, & Baptist Building, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (CG); (2) Campers on Mission Rally, Gulfshore, 4th - 17th (MM); (3) Please pray today for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel (east of Mediterranean Sea).

Pray for the 10.8 million Southern Pashtun people in southern Afghanistan and southwestern Pakistan to have an opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ. They are a fundamentalist Sunni Islamic group. They have no Bible in their language, and there are only a few known believers in Christ living among them.

Gary Irby, Lynnwood, Washington, is a church planting missionary working in the Puget Sound Association. Pray for the five new church planters moving to the Seattle area this year to start new congregations and for other church plants to continue to grow.

Cam (a pseudonym), a Central Asia university student, heard the Gospel recently from a new friend. He listened attentively to God's truth and his friend's testimony of faith. Pray for God's Word to make a permanent home in Cam's heart and for him to receive Christ.

For: (1) State Leadership Men's Ministry Training for Churches, Central Hills, Kosciusko, 15th - 16th (MM); (2) Preschool Children's Youth Leadership Clinic, Alta Wood, BC, Jackson, 15th-16th (CM); (3) King Abdallah II of Jordan (Middle East, south-east of Israel).

Reports of people in India resisting the Naxalites (Telugu people promoting domestic terrorism) and protecting their neighbors from them are increasing. Pray that the anger, hopelessness and hostility of the Naxalites would be replaced by hope, peace and love found with saving faith in Jesus Christ.



It's time to
moment to
send a card
to encourage
the children
of our
missionaries!

PLEASE NOTE

Church members
may send a package
of cards altogether;
cards do not have
to be sent individu-
ally to Stewardship.

MISS ANNE MARIE PERCY
Parents: Frank & Jerry Anne
Sports Evangelism
Eastern Africa

10-5-86
MISS JESSICA L. BAKER
Parents: Kenneth & Lynn
Dentistry
Western Europe

10-5-96
MISS CARLEY L. MULLINS
Parents: Frank & Lynn
Church Planting
Western Europe

10-6-94
MR. ADAM S. CROCKER
Parents: George & Ginger
Sports Evangelism
Western South America

MISS KATHY L. HARRISON
Parents: Frank & Phoebe
Church Planting
Middle America

10-9-88
MISS MADISON H. CROCKER
Parents: George & Ginger
Sports Evangelism
Western South America

10-14-83
MISS VICTORIA L. HARRISON
Parents: Frank & Phoebe
Church Planting
Middle America

10-27-83
HANNAH GRAY JONES
Parents: Tony & Karen
Church Planting
Eastern South America

MISS KATHY L. HARRISON
Parents: Frank & Phoebe
Church Planting
Middle America

10-9-88
MISS KATHY L. HARRISON
Parents: Frank & Phoebe
Church Planting
Middle America

10-14-83
MISS KATHY L. HARRISON
Parents: Frank & Phoebe
Church Planting
Middle America

Child's name and parent's name
ABC B Stewardship Dept.
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

HOUSE TOPS.

HOMECOMINGS & REVIVALS

Juniper Grove, Poplarville: Aug. 10; worship, 11 a.m., dinner will be served; Phil Hanberry, former pastor, preaching.

Antioch, Louin: Aug. 24-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Smith, South Green, Tupelo, preaching; Raymond Delk, Bay Springs, music; Brad Brownlee, pastor.

Jerusalem, Attala: Aug. 10; worship, 10:30 a.m.; a covered dish lunch will be served; Sammy Ray, former pastor, preaching; Rita Pettit, Nina Riley, music; Johnny Parks, pastor.

Calvary, Canton: Aug. 10-13; Sunday, 10:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; a fellowship will follow the Wednesday service; Tommy Jarrett, Broadmoor, Madison, speaking; Anthony Thaxton, music; Tom Rayborn, pastor.

Hebron, Panola: Aug. 10-13; Sunday, 11 a.m., a potluck lunch will be served, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Livingston, speaker; Joe Thompson, music; Travis Tramel, pastor.

New Home, Smith: Aug. 10; lunch will be served at noon; Kathy Lee and Stacy Sherman, evening music; Harvey Lilly, speaking; a cemetery fund collection will be taken.

Big Springs, Brookhaven: Aug. 10; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; Hosanna, singing, 1:30 p.m.

First, Laurel: Aug. 10-13; Breath of Fresh Air; Sunday, 5 p.m., 5:15 p.m., and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon, 12:30 p.m., 6 p.m.,

6:30 p.m., and 7 p.m.; Joe McKeever, First, Kenner, La., preaching; Graham Smith, MCB, music.

Center Ridge, Yazoo City: Aug. 10; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 and 11:30 a.m.; lunch at noon; afternoon singing, 1:30 p.m.; Howard Collier, Winn, Ark., speaking; Tommy Sparkman, music; Daryl Oster, interim pastor.

New Hope, Tupelo: Aug. 10-13; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Forrest Sheffield, Harrisburg, Tupelo, evangelist; Charlie Cooper, Rienzi, Rienzi, music; Lowell Johnson, pastor.

County Line, Pontotoc: Aug. 10-15; 7 p.m. nightly; Johnny Sykes, evangelist; Wayne Cobb, pastor.

Little Bahalia, Wesson: Aug. 10-13; Sunday, 10 and 10:50 a.m.; lunch at noon; The Singing Mississippi, 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Carr, evangelist; Hubert Greer, music; James Case, pastor; Norris Roberts, minister of music.



Michael Havens & Cliff Nelson, pastor

On August 10 churches in North Hancock County will sponsor the Hancock County Public Schools PrayerWalk. Bayou Talla Fellowship Church, Kiln, will be the host church for the brief Prayer Rally which begins at 3 p.m. The prayer teams will go to schools and the administration building to pray for protection for teachers, administrators, students, and parents. Pastors are encouraged to participate. Teachers, administrators, parents, and students are invited to come and pray over the beginning school year. For more information, call (601) 255-1118.

Faith Church, Hickory Flat, held their first Baby Dedication Service on June 8. Andrew Wade Towery was dedicated by his parents. Pictured (from left) are Woodrow Towery, his wife Ashley with Andrew, Larry West, pastor, and his wife.

Park Haven Church, Laurel, will present a gospel concert, featuring the New Life Gospel Group, on August 16 at 7 p.m. A love offering is expected. For more information, call (601) 649-5357.

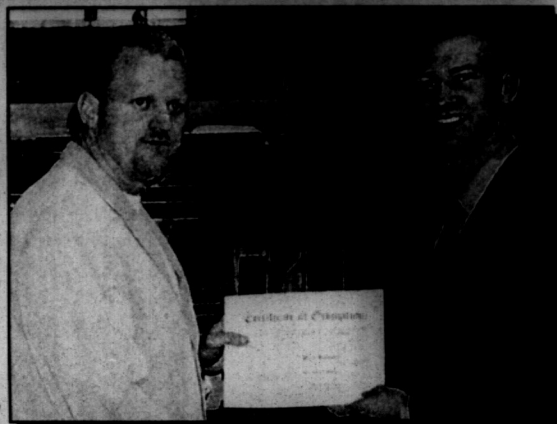
Pearson Church, Pearl, will present a gospel singing, featuring the New Wine Quartet, Magee, on August 9 at 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken. For more information, call (601) 939-3618.

Wanilla Church, Monticello, ordained Greg Breazeale on June 29. Pictured (from left)

are Rick Davis and Breazeale.

Immanuel Church, Magnolia, recently ordained Gillis Windham, Smithie Buie, and Price Burch as deacons. Pictured (from left) are Windham, Buie, and Burch.

Bolton Church, Bolton, licensed Michael W. Havens to the ministry on July 6. Havens plans to attend Baylor University. Pictured



Rick Davis & Greg Breazeale (from left) are Havens, and Cliff Nelson, pastor.



Faith Baby Dedication, Hickory Flat



Immanuel Church Deacon Dedication, Magnolia

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

FINALLY AFFORDABLE HEALTH Insurance for the self employed. Call (662) 568-3482. *underwritten by MEGA Life & Health Insurance Company. M/COMB0008.

HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

A BRAND NEW QUEEN Orthopedic mattress set. NEW in plastic w/warr., sell \$119. Call (601) 209-0872.

A QUEEN MATTRESS SET, pillow-top, NEW in plastic. Sell \$175. Call (601) 209-0872.

A BRAND NEW KING Orthopedic mattress set. NEW in plastic, only \$189. Call (601) 209-0872.

LEESVILLE - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH: Full-time youth and recreation minister. Send resumes with photo to: Youth Pastor

Search Committee, First Baptist Church of Leesville, P.O. Box 1568, 1400 Nolan Trace, Leesville, LA 71446; or email fbcleesville@wnonline.net.

SLEIGH BED, BRAND NEW IN BOX. SELL \$299. Call (601) 209-0872.

BEDROOM SET, BRAND NEW IN BOX. Bed, dresser, mirror, chest and nightstand. Sell \$599. Call (601) 209-0872.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, Inc., old Bibles rebound. Also church bulletins

and hymnals. For more information call (662) 453-7424 or fax us at (662) 455-6743. Located at 107 North Stone Avenue, Greenwood, MS 38930.

BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS. All sizes. www.GulfShoresCondos.com. Late Summer special, 2 night weekend \$130. 4 weeknights \$190. Efficiency unit (2 adults, 2 kids) good thru 8/28/03. Call (205) 554-1524.

LOWER YOUR PHONE BILL. BLESSED Hope has 4.9 cents/minute, (24/7), no fees, no fine print and 250,000 happy customers. Toll free (866) 587-8346 or info at www.covenantphoneservice.com.

BRANSON, MISSOURI CONDO. Walk-in. Smoke-free, no pets, sleeps 6. Two bedroom, two bath. Special rates - dinner, tickets for anniversary, and birthday, groups welcome. Call (662) 746-4632.

GATLINBURG GETAWAY: TWO BR/TWO bath, full kitchen. Walking distance to parkway. \$65/night. Call for information at (251) 666-2175.

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YOUTH PASTOR NEEDED. Kingwood, First Baptist Church, Kingwood, Texas is looking for a full-time youth pastor for students in grades 7-12, and college. Interested applicants should send resume to Kingwood First Baptist Church, attention: student ministry search committee, 2303 Tree Lane, Kingwood, TX 77339 or email it to scammarata@kfbctx.org.

TOMPKINS BAPTIST CHURCH OF GROVE Hill, Alabama is seeking a full-time pastor with a seminary degree from a SBC Institution and with at least 5 years pastoral experience. Send resume to: Tompkins Baptist Church, 14130 Hwy 43, Grove Hill, AL 36541.

LARGE SUBURBAN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI Baptist Church prayerfully seeks a full-time minister of music. Duties include leading contemporary worship services, coordinating vocal and instrumental ensembles and major music/drama productions. Evangelistic heart a must. Send resumes to music/worship committee, Fee Fee Baptist Church, 11330 St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton, MO 63044.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, ROSWELL, Georgia, Atlanta suburb, seeking full-time Associate Pastor. Emphasis on Adult education. Sunday School 600, worship, two morning services, 750. Gifts SBC and CBF accepted. Master's degree with ordination, 10 years experience preferred. Please send resumes before August 31. Send to Associate Pastor Search Committee, FBC, 710 Mimosa Blvd, Roswell, GA 30075.

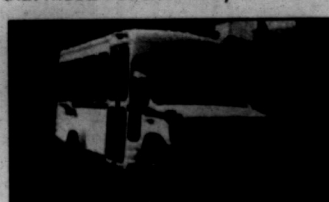
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THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Bill Causey, Interm Executive Director

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

MARCH 1-15, 2003
MEMORIALS

Mrs. Eva Godfrey
Wayne & JoAnn
McDonald
Mrs. Lorena B. Poeler
Mrs. Shirley M. Nowell
Mr. W. J. Goff
Ms. Frances W. Davis
William H. Goff
Dr. Jason L. Williams
Dr. & Mrs. Lyle D.
Zardias
M. C. Gaston
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Mrs. Mittie Grace
Mrs. Shirley M. Pace
James P. Graeber, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Bill
Barbee
Mrs. William Lester
Barbee
Bill & Deena Barbee
Gordon Logan
Mr. Jesse Green
Mr. & Mrs. Chester N.
Herrington
Charles Grull
Stanton BC-Natchez
Elbert & Polly Gaynes
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy
Porter
John Hagerman
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Evans
Frankie Haire
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Mr. Edward Moody Hall
Ms. Martha Putnam
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D.
Allen
Charles Leighton Hamric,
III
Miss Alva Merle
Blanton
Mrs. Agnes "Red" Harper
Brenda & Rusty
Hawkins
Senior Saints,
Woodlawn BC-Vicksburg
Mr. Willie Harrigill
Mr. & Mrs. James Buie
Jr.
Alan Harris
Mr. & Mrs. E. Wayne
Smith

Ira Harrison
Graeber Brothers, Inc.
Mr. R. W. Harrison
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby G.
Bell
Mr. William "Bill" M. Hayes
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Box
Mrs. Rosa M. Miller
Clydene Haymon
Mrs. Laura Erwin &
Family
Becky Herbert
McInnes Family
Beverly McInnes
William McInnes
Peggy & Charles Black
Jeanne & Barney
Chadwick
Anne & Pat Dickens
Mr. H. Henry Hederman, Sr.
Dr. & Mrs. Linuel D.
Jayroe
Mr. & Mrs. Henry M.
Burkhalter
Mrs. James A. Miller
Mr. Anthony Thomas
The Lester Bear Family
David L. Hendrix
Ms. Earline C. Burke
Mrs. Wayne (Mary Rebecca
"Becky" Sapp) Herbert
Speedway Girls
Mr. & Mrs. Peter P.
Buescher
Zach & Barbara
Hederman
Mr. & Mrs. Elbert F.
Nothorn
Mr. Michael Rubenstein
Dr. Robert B. Kennedy
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis P.
Maynard
Mr. Bill M. Huddleston
Ellen Breed
Mary Ellen Harris
Little Rock Children's
Clinic
Mr. & Mrs. Carey
Nichols
Mr. & Mrs. Zach Taylor
Jr.
Mr. Kirk G. Taylor
Mrs. Eloise G. Ellis
Werkhoven and
Associates
Mr. & Mrs. Bolan M.

Overstreet
Mr. Clifton E. Rhodes
Mr. & Mrs. Zachary
Taylor III
Mrs. T. A. Higdon
Mrs. Jack B. Smith
Keith Hill
The Brownlees
Vera Hinkle
Mr. & Mrs. Tony A.
Thomas
Mrs. Alberta Hitt
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J.
Pace
Mr. A. F. Hollingsworth
Mr. & Mrs. David Boyd
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis
Woods
Frank Carroll Holloway
Mrs. Bal Mobley
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J.
Pace
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hitt
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy
Rogers & Family
Alton Hood
Mr. & Mrs. Joe A.
Horton Sr.
Jannita Hood
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Rebecca (Betty) Hood
Phillip Baptist Church
Mrs. Pat Howell
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Box
Gidget Howell
Jean & Check Pope
Sharon Hudson
Ruth SSC, Hurley BC-
Hurley
Clotel Hughes
Mr. & Mrs. Albert F.
Dribben
Evan Matthew Hallett
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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Being Faithful

Genesis 39:1-23

By Karen Hollowell

Do you ever have one of those days when nothing goes right? You're late for work, didn't get breakfast, car had a flat tire, etc.? How about having a day like that for years at a time. Joseph certainly had more trouble than he ever bargained for. It wouldn't seem that an omniscient God is in control during this period in Joseph's life, but He was; God was using all situations to prepare Joseph for a job he couldn't possibly dream of when he first became a slave in Egypt.

In the 39th chapter of Genesis, we see Joseph being taken to Egypt and sold to Potiphar, an official in the court of Pharaoh. Soon afterwards, Potiphar recognized that Joseph was different from the

other slaves, that he had leadership and administrative skills. He promoted Joseph to head of his household and so trusted him that he never concerned himself with anything except eating his meals (verse 6). Joseph took pride in his work and used his God-given abilities even while he was an unwilling servant in a foreign land.

Potiphar's wife had also been observing Joseph, but it was with lustful admiration. She attempted to seduce him. He refused citing three reasons: he would betray the trust placed in his hands, he would betray her husband, and it would be a great sin against God. Even after continued pressure, Joseph would not give in. Finally, she managed to make sure that one day everyone

would be gone but them. So adamant was Joseph not to commit adultery that he left his cloak in her hands as he hurried out of the house. In anger, Potiphar's wife tells the servants and then her husband that Joseph had tried to rape her. Here we again see the intervening hand of

Hollowell

God. Death was the usual penalty for a slave accused of such a crime. Joseph, however, was sent to prison.

There's an important lesson to be learned here. Even though Joseph did what was right, he was still unjustly punished. Being faithful to God does not always mean that we'll be praised for it, sometimes it means that we'll be persecuted. I'm sure Joseph did not know what he had done to deserve all the harsh treatment inflicted on him. He had probably been bewildered since he left Dothan with the Ishmaelites who had purchased him. We don't know if he questioned or doubted God,

but we do know that his actions were in line with one who completely trusted the Lord. Even in prison, God was with Joseph as the head guard saw the same leadership attributes as Potiphar had and put him in charge of the other prisoners. All this did not happen overnight. Joseph was in prison for years. Psalms 105:18 tells us that he suffered while there. However, God prospered whatever task Joseph performed. This obviously does not mean what we think of as prosperous. It means that the Lord blessed Joseph's efforts. Certainly Joseph knew this was evidence of God's presence and providence in his life even while residing in a dungeon.

We have the benefit of being able to see the entire picture in the story of Joseph's life and know that God was preparing Joseph to be a great leader in Egypt who would save His chosen people. Often for us, it is hard to see how God is working while we are in the midst of difficult situations. The Bible tells us in Luke 16:10 that those found faithful in

the little things will be faithful in the big things. Joseph, by remaining faithful during the hard times, proved that he was ready for the great task that lay ahead for him. People in leadership positions in ministry are often discouraged by situations in which they find themselves. They may not understand why they are being tested, but it may be that God has a greater responsibility for them. This is the way God is preparing them. Being a leader doesn't necessarily mean that one has to endure what Joseph did. Being an effective leader does mean seeing God at work in the middle of the crisis, asking "what is God trying to teach me through this?" and praying for strength to continue. We don't hear Joseph complaining; instead he took comfort in the fact that God was with him in the prison showing kindness and favor to him. Thankfully, God's presence in times of trouble is extended to all believers today.

Hollowell is a member of Crosby Church, Crosby.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Practicing Your Faith

James 2:14-26

By Kiley Young

What is your "faith factor"? James boldly proclaims, "Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works" (2:18). This is not to confuse the issue of salvation by faith in Jesus alone for salvation. On the other hand, when Jesus is Lord there will be evidence in our lives of His lordship. James again is bold in his approach to practical faith. It is like fruit bearing. Fruit is the outward manifestation of the inner nature. The evidence of our faith should be easily recognized by all who come in contact with us. If our lifestyle is otherwise James says we should take another look.

I. Faith Without Works (2:14-17).

An old burger commercial caught the attention of the American consumer, "Where's the beef?" It was contrasting their burger with other fast food burgers, as if to say they had the "real" burger. James' words provoke a similar question, "What does your faith do?" When we are called to respond to needs and we just give a casual response, what good do we show? James says that kind of faith is dead. It profits nothing. True faith brings life and produces good works. Far too often we are caught up in our own little world and "pass by on the other side" as Jesus described in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. He described the behavior of the Priest and the Levite in that fashion when they left the beaten man and went about their own desires. The

despised Samaritan stopped, ministered to the helpless man and followed through to make sure he was properly cared for. Jesus said that man displayed true compassion. That is faith in action.

II. Faith That Works (2:18-20).

Young

A favorite activity of small children is "show and tell." They proudly display their favorite object, toy, or friend. Then they joyfully tell you all about it. James says life changing faith is the same. It produces good works! It has life-changing results. James brings our belief system into question. He is so bold to say that faith that does not produce good works is dead. His comparison to the belief system of demons is evidence. Demons recognize the Deity of Christ, even to the point it causes them to tremble. They know their ultimate destiny. Faith that is only head knowledge, purely intellectual, is of no value to the Kingdom. The world needs to see results. It has often been said, "I would rather see a sermon,

than just hear one." What kind of message are we proclaiming?

II. Faith, Works, and Salvation (2:21-26).

Is there not just one way to salvation, faith in Christ alone? Does James contradict Paul? James and Paul agree, salvation is by grace through faith in Christ Jesus for the forgiveness of sin. They look at faith from different perspectives. Paul sees faith as the necessity for salvation. James sees faith as an action of salvation.

James gives two Old Testament personalities to illustrate his point. They are two drastically different people with one very common thread, their complete faith in God. Abraham's faith was called into action when he was asked to offer Isaac on the altar. He was confident God would provide for the sacrifice and he acted on faith. God rewarded his faith and Abraham was "counted as righteous." Rahab was a harlot, a woman of immorality, hardly one to be thought of with regard to righteousness, but she gave evidence of her faith and her belief in God when she protect-

ed the spies sent by Joshua to get the lay of the land. You will find her name recorded in the lineage of our Lord, a member of the family of faith.

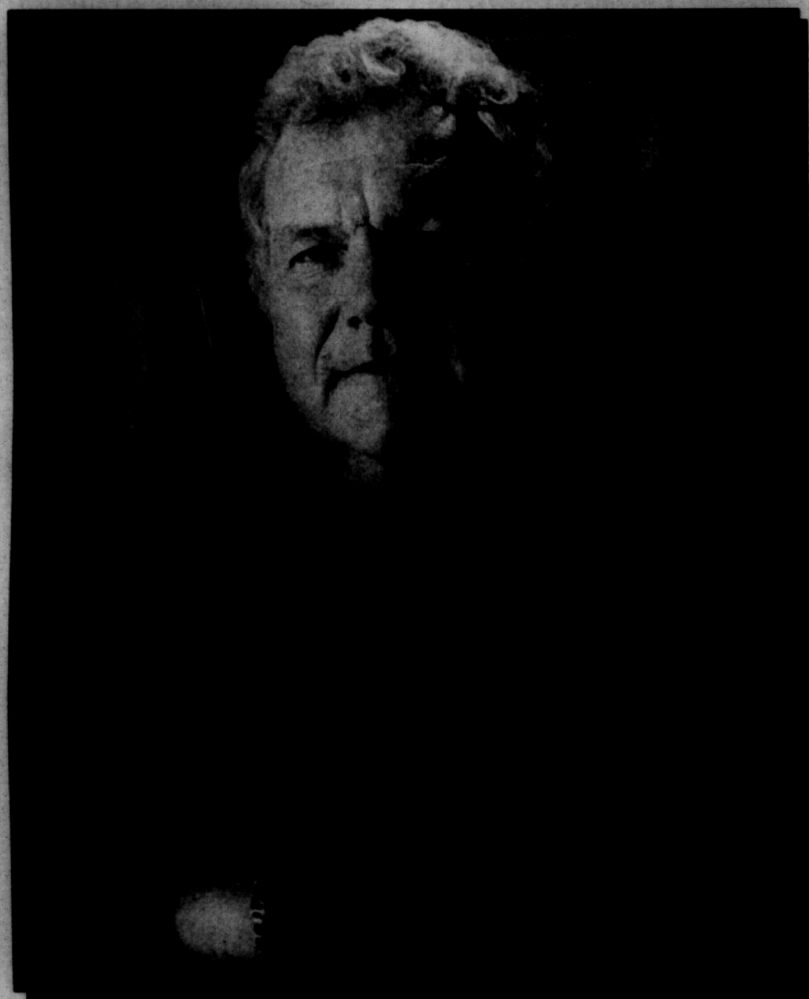
Both Abraham and Rahab had believing faith and exercised their faith. Their lives gave evidence of their belief system. James would call it faith that works.

There are many belief systems that cry out for our attention. We must decide what works for us. There is only one that has the ability to make a life-transforming difference. There is only one that fills an individual with new life. That is belief in Jesus Christ. "There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). James tells us when Christ is Lord of our life, He brings energy and action that results in a lifestyle of service. As the late D. L. Moody often said, "Every Bible should be bound in shoe leather." Dynamic faith proves itself in daily life and works.

Young is the director of the Sunday School Dept. at the MBCB in Jackson.

Bennett denies hypocrisy in gambling flap

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Giving his first interviews since promising to quit gambling, cultural commentator and former U.S. Education Secretary William Bennett



Bennett

and my counsel seriously, and who just felt disappointed in me. Let down — maybe worse.

"The message is the same. The validity of the message doesn't depend on the messenger. But, the better the messenger, the more plausible the message can be to the listener — not the more accurate or more correct, but more plausible. In that sense, I made my own message less plausible."

Bennett said on CNBC that he is "not a hypocrite" because he "never said gambling is a terrible thing [or that] people should stop gambling."

"... I don't consider it as wrong in itself," he said, "but when you do too much of something, as I was doing at that high level amount, then you should stop."

Bennett did say he fell "short" of his "standards by doing too much" and he hopes he has not lost credibility as a cultural commentator.

"I hope it hasn't hurt my ability to have a conversation with the American people," he told Russert. "I don't want it to. What I did was excessive, was wrong, it was a mistake. That's over. I've got to move on to other things."

Bennett said he was puzzled when the story first surfaced because several years ago Time magazine and The Washington Post reported his involvement in gambling.

The Newsweek and Washington Monthly stories, though, had an additional element — casino documents

showing he had gambled several million dollars over a decade. Bennett told Russert that he is "considering" legal action against the casinos for releasing the information.

"I was pretty public about it..." he said of his history of gambling. "This is not something I was hiding."

Bennett said reports that he lost \$8 million are wrong. "I don't really think the amounts are anybody's business but the family's and the IRS," he said on CNBC, adding that all of his earnings were reported to the government.

Bennett also addressed those who took delight in seeing "me getting whacked." He called it a "perverse kind of reaction."

"That's horrible, that's creepy, that's really bad," he said. "... You don't take pleasure in other people's suffering — especially in the political realm."

He told Russert that he has remained positive throughout the ordeal. "I'm up, and I'm back, and nobody's going to drive me out of public life," he said. In other topics:

• Bennett said he has not taken a position on the Federal Marriage Amendment, which would add language to the U.S. Constitution to ban same-sex "marriage."

An amendment is "a hard thing to get, but many feel that's the way to go," he said on CNBC. "I've been wrestling with this and debating it and sending memos back and forth and talking to people on the phone. I am

certainly of the view that marriage needs to be preserved as a relationship between one man and one woman," he said.

"Almost all" religions and societies have agreed that marriage is only between a man and a woman, Bennett noted.

"Marriage is not in great shape right now in the United States and many of the western democracies," he said. "Should we take another step to weaken it?"

Once same-sex "marriage" is allowed, he said, arguments against polygamy and incest are weakened. "It's a big gap between saying, 'You have the right to be left alone' and saying, 'I bless what it is you're doing.' That's the step I'm not prepared to take," he said.

WORLD reported that Bennett is "eager" to engage in the debate over same-sex "marriage."

• Bennett said his view of America has changed since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Asked by Russert what he thought was America's biggest problem, Bennett said that before 9/11, he would have said it was the decline of morality. "Since 9/11 I can't say that. Since seeing these kids go off to places like Iraq, I can't say that."

Bennett said that the strength of America's military personnel has influenced his beliefs. "I have re-evaluated my own position on American culture and come to the conclusion that we're not ready to go down the tubes at all."

Bibliocipher

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RT YTOSWTJTER QXY
JTLHDTER, QXY RT
VCJPTER LSUXL QXY
VCXYTJL SX RTQWTX SX
TQJER, VRC RQER
YTOSWTJTY YQXSTO
KJCA ERT ICVTJ CK
ERT OSCXL.
YQXSTO LSM:
EVTXEG-LTWTX

Clue: C = O

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans 5:8

says that he's not a hypocrite, that gambling for him was a sin, and that he regrets his behavior "given who I am and what I do."

Appearing on CNBC's Tim Russert cable show on July 26, Bennett reiterated what he told Newsweek and The Washington Monthly in May: that his religion, Catholicism, permits gambling. He also told WORLD magazine in its Aug. 9 issue that while he does not consider all gambling a sin, it is a sin for him.

"It was a sin because it was a bad use of time and resources," he told WORLD. "Mortal sin? Venial sin? Something in the middle? I have no idea, but excess, for sure."

Bennett said on CNBC that he "way overdid it. I gambled too much, and I think I gambled too much given who I am and what I do."

The revelation about Bennett underscored a split between the Catholic Church and many Protestant denominations. Many Protestant denominations — both liberal and conservative — agree that gambling is a sin.

In fact, WORLD reports that Bennett granted the evangelical news magazine an interview because its readers were disappointed in his behavior.

"I let people down," he told WORLD. "I let people down who were looking to me, whether I wanted to be looked to or not, who were taking me

Writer remembers entertainer Hope as respectful, 'privately religious'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Bob Hope died July 27 at the age of 100, and millions of people worldwide have been remembering him as a legendary comedian, a Hollywood star, an avid supporter of the American military, and simply a great man.

Martha Bolton, who now lives outside Nashville and was a staff comedy writer for Hope for more than 15 years, said there was an element of faith in Hope's life. "He was a very religious man but privately religious," Bolton told Baptist Press. "He had a definite respect [for spiritual things], and God held a special place in his heart."

Bolton began writing comedy as a church secretary. "I saw a lot of comedy in the church," she said. "I used to perform a Friar's Club-type roast on the pastor, deacon, or any other church staff member who was celebrating a special occasion. I had to change churches a lot."

Then she wanted to get into television writing, so she started sending out material and was hired to write for Phyllis Diller. Before long she was writing for a television show, and though the producers liked her work, the show was canceled. Someone with the show was connected with Bob Hope and recommended Bolton to Hope as a comedy writer.

The first time Hope called Bolton, it was about 11:30 at night, she recounted. She had been out for the evening, and her husband had gone to take the babysitter home. She answered the phone.

"There was a deacon in our church who did voices, so for the first part of the conversation I was saying, 'OK, I know it's you, Frank, and you're not even that good,' but it was Bob Hope of course."

Bolton said the joke she wrote for Hope that



Bolton

stands out the most to her is one she wrote after a significant earthquake shook California. She said the assignment to write about it came in "as we were still having the aftershocks." The joke: "I don't mind earthquakes. I just figure they're God's way of letting me get a hole in one."

Bolton said she learned from Hope how to write fast. "He was the king of topical humor. Whatever was happening in the news or in politics he would be on top of it so we had to write really fast," she said. "I remember one incident in particular. We were writing for a psychiatrist convention he was going to be performing at, so we wrote psychiatrist jokes. When he got to the venue he discovered that it wasn't a psychiatrist convention, it was a chiropractor convention so we had to write all new material in about 15 or 20 minutes."

In addition to writing for Hope and Diller, Bolton also has written comedy for Ann Jillian, Mark Lowry, and others. She has a regular column called The Cafeteria Lady in Focus on the Family's Brio magazine for teen girls.